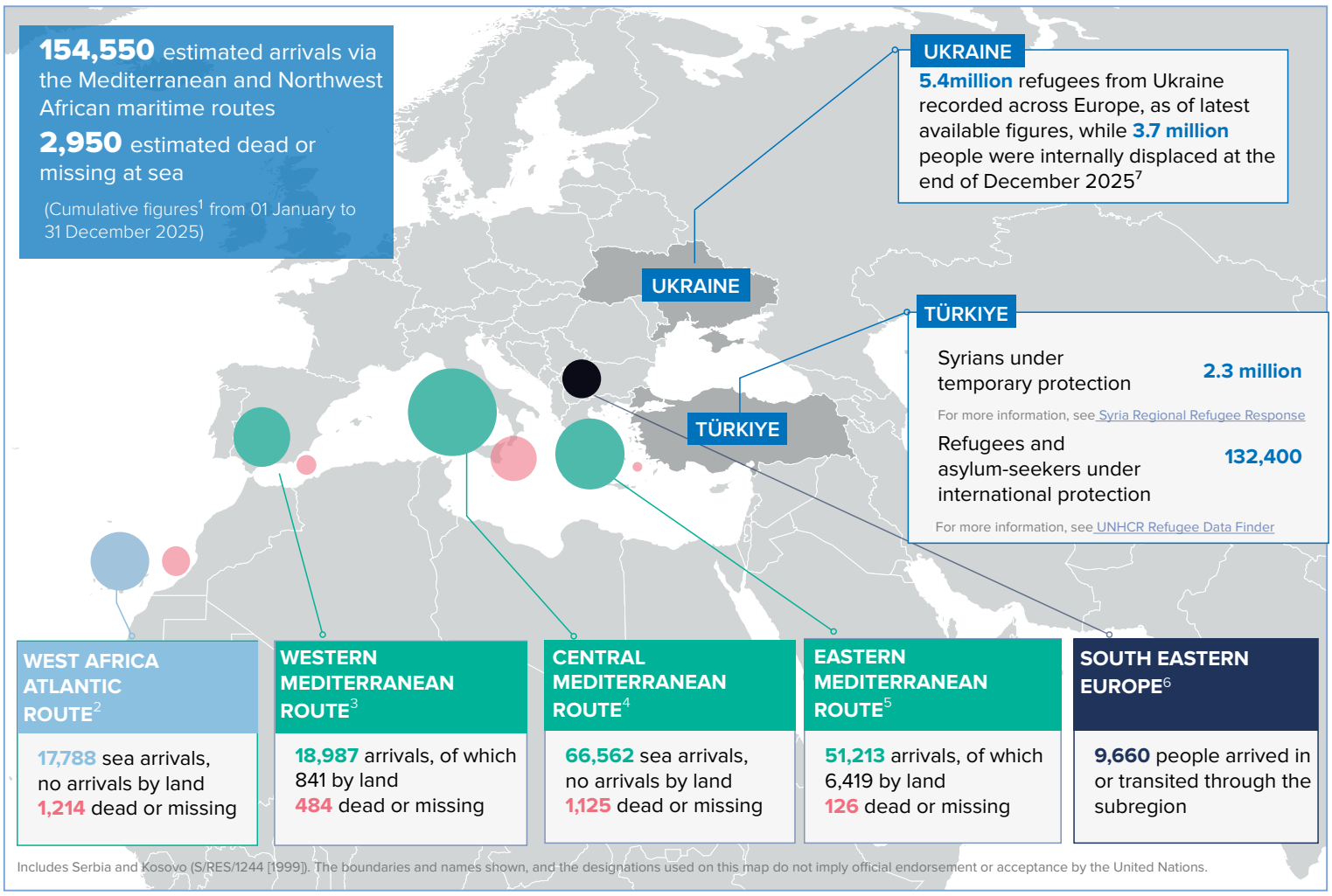
EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | December 2025

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

December 2025



UKRAINE SITUATION

As of latest available figures, **5.4 million** refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, while **3.7 million** people were internally displaced.

According to EUROSTAT statistics, between January - December 2025, nearly 668,700 positive decisions for Temporary Protection (TP) were granted in EU+ countries, 12 per cent fewer than in 2024. After a marked increase in monthly TP decisions observed in September and October 2025 (largely driven by increased arrivals of men aged 18 to 22), the numbers decreased during November and December, resuming the declining trend observed prior to September.

A recent UNHCR report, based on 6,000+ surveys with refugees from Ukraine across Europe, reveals that while 57% of Ukrainian refugees in Europe are employed, they remain 22 percentage points behind host-country nationals. Beyond the participation gap, the report uncovers a "de-skilling" crisis: 60% work below their skill level, with tertiary-educated refugees five times more likely than locals to hold low-skilled positions. This structural mismatch drives a significant wage gap and prevents host countries from realizing potential GDP gains of up to 0.7 percentage points per year.

Ukraine situation key figures:

5,374,780
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

549,090
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

5,923,870
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

- For more information, please visit the Operation Data Porrtal for the Ukraine Refugee situation

For more information, please visit Operation Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation and Operational Data Portal for Ukraine.

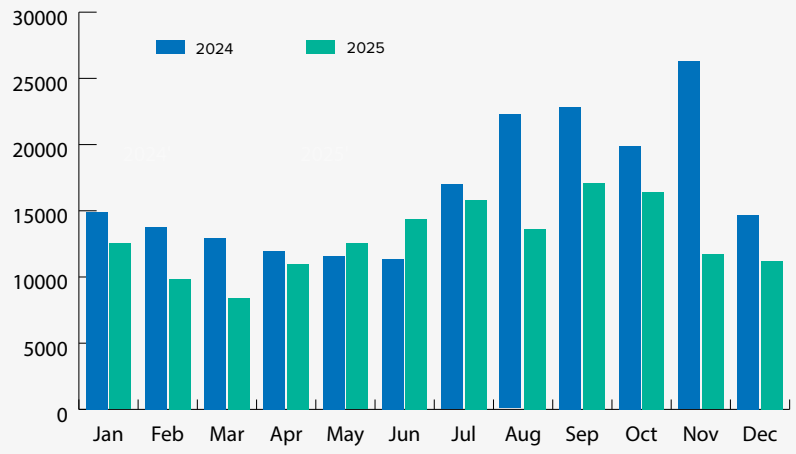
ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND WEST AFRICA ATLANTIC ROUTES

In December 2025, 11,190 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and West Africa Atlantic routes through mixed movements. This brought the 2025 annual total 16 per cent lower than the previous year.

In December 2025, arrivals to Italy were 31 per cent lower compared to the prior month but remain similar compared to the same period last year (3,080). Of the 3,000 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy over December, 78 per cent departed from Libya, 13 per cent from Tunisia and few people departed from Algeria. Most refugees and migrants who arrived in December originated from Bangladesh, Egypt and Somalia. No arrival reported in Malta in December.

In December 2025, 1,300 refugees and migrants departing Libya were intercepted or rescued by Libyan authorities and disembarked in Libya, which is similar compared to previous month.

Total monthly arrivals through the Mediterranean and West Africa Atlantic routes



In Spain, 2,700 refugees and migrants arrived in December, representing a 32 per cent decrease compared to the previous month, but a 59 per cent decreased when compared to the same period last year. Of all arrivals in December, 39 per cent landed on the Canary Islands (1,050). When compared to last month, arrivals to Spain through the Northwest African maritime route has less than half, whereas arrivals via Western Mediterranean route increased by 34 per cent.

In December 2025, 5,500 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea. This amounted to a 68 per cent increase compared to last month and a slight increase when compared to same period last year.

Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 953 refugees and migrants at sea in December, a 38 per cent decrease compared to the previous month.

In Cyprus, 140 refugees and migrants arrived in December, which represents a 17 per cent increase compared to the previous month and a 26 per cent decrease when compared to the same period last year.

For more information, please visit Operation Data Portal for Europe Sea Arrivals Situation

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[9]

In December 2025, 276 people arrived in, or transited through, the Western Balkans as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. This represented a 63 per cent decrease when compared to the previous month and a 78 per cent decrease when compared to the same month last year. Of the arrivals in 2025, the majority were from Afghanistan (19 per cent), Egypt (18 per cent) and Türkiye (15 per cent).

Throughout December, 74 people submitted asylum applications, a 6 per cent increase compared to November. Meanwhile, 88 first-instance decisions were issued including 11 subsidiary protection status, one refugee status, 35 applicants were rejected, and 41 applications were closed. As of the end of November, 534 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the Western Balkans.

As of end of December 2025, 2,289 refugees and migrants were present in the Western Balkans, including 134 unaccompanied and separated children.

For more information, please visit Operation Data Portal for the South Eastern Europe Situation

1. Dead and missing figures refer to the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes. Information is compiled from a variety of sources, the quality and reliability of which can vary. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures on some arrivals, as well as dead and missing at sea, represent an estimate.Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments in figures may occur, including retroactively.
2. Includes sea arrivals in the Canary Islands (Spain) via the Atlantic Ocean.
3. Includes sea and land arrivals in Spain via the Western Mediterranean route.
4. Includes sea arrivals in Italy and Malta.
5. Includes sea and land arrivals in Greece and Cyprus.
6. Majority of the persons arriving in the Western Balkan region are part of the secondary movement, those who have already arrived in Greece or Bulgaria and then transited through the region with the intention to move onward to other EU countries.
7. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Oct 17 2025. DTM Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 21 (October 2025). IOM, Ukraine: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ukraine-internal-displacement-report-general-population-survey-round-22-january-2026
8. Countries participating in the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia
9. Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).
10. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asytpfm/default/table?lang=en&category=migr.migr_asy.migr_asytp